

million outpatient visits for 3.7 million patients would have been denied under the majority's budget blueprint, and we will have turned our backs on the majority of those who so valiantly served this Nation.

Mr. President, this has been our findings in reading through the budget proposal that will be presented today to the Senate. The majority's budget proposals for cuts to Medicare and freezing Veterans' Administration health care programs are simply, in my eyes and in my heart, unacceptable. You cannot single out health care for one segment of the population for cuts without serious consequences. The senior citizens of today, the veterans of today, should not have the rugs pulled out from under them. So, therefore, I urge my colleagues to reject these unwise proposals.

I yield the remainder of my time.

IS CONGRESS IRRESPONSIBLE? THE VOTERS HAVE SAID "YES"

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, the impression simply will not go away: The \$4.8 trillion Federal debt is a grotesque parallel to the energizer bunny we see, and see, and see on television. The Federal debt keeps going and going and going—up, of course—always to the added misery of the American taxpayers.

So many politicians talk a good game—when, that is, they go home to talk—and "talk" is the operative word—about bringing Federal deficits and the Federal debt under control.

But, sad to say, so many of these very same politicians have regularly voted for one bloated spending bill after another during the 103d Congress and before. Come to think about it, this may have been a primary factor in the new configuration of U.S. Senators as a result of last November's elections.

In any event, Mr. President, as of yesterday, Wednesday, May 17, at the close of business, the total Federal debt stood—down to the penny—at exactly \$4,884,246,600,937.11 or \$18,540.68 per man, woman, and child on a per capital basis. *Res ipsa loquitur*.

THE RETIREMENT OF REAR ADM. PATRICK W. DRENNON, CEC, USN

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, it has come to my attention that Rear Adm. Patrick W. Drennon will be retiring from the Navy after some 33 years of honorable and distinguished service.

He most recently served as the Director, Facilities and Engineering Division (N44) for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), Washington, DC. In this capacity he has provided timely support and accurate information on Navy facility and engineering plans and programs to the Members of the Senate and our professional and personal staffs.

Admiral Drennon was previously the Commander of Western Division, Naval

Facilities Engineering Command [NAVFACENGCOM], headquartered in San Bruno, CA. This was following duty as Deputy Commander for Planning and Assistant Commander for Facilities and Real Estate at NAVFACENGCOM Headquarters in Alexandria, VA, and as Assistant for Civil Engineering (OP-04E) to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), Washington, DC.

His other duty assignments have included: Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction in Key West, FL; Public Works Officer at the Naval Facility and the Navy Representative for Construction while on the staff of the Commander, U.S. Forces in the Azores; Operations Officer of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One on two deployments to Vietnam; an instructor at the Civil Engineer Corps Officers School at Port Hueneme, CA; and an Exchange Officer with the Mediterranean Division, Corps of Engineers, Livorno, Italy. While working with the Corps' Mediterranean Division, he served as the program manager for the planning and design of King Khalid Military City, Saudi Arabia.

Admiral Drennon also served in the Seabee Division, NAVFACENGCOM Headquarters; on the staff of the then-Director, Shore Activities Planning and Programming Division (OP-44) for the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC; and as the Executive Officer of the Public Works Center and Resident Officer in Charge of Construction in San Diego, CA.

His awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Combat "V" and a Gold Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with a Gold Star, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Rear Admiral Drennon has become widely acknowledged as a leader and visionary in the Civil Engineer Corps. As a fellow Georgia Tech Yellow Jacket, I can say that this is no real surprise as Rear Admiral Drennon began his distinguished naval career upon his commissioning out of the NROTC Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Mr. President, over the past several years many communities have experienced great anxiety and turmoil as a result of the Department of Defense's base closure process. Rear Admiral Drennon has played a vital role in promoting effective communications and harmonious working relationships in the Navy's base realignment and closure implementation process. He has assisted local civic leaders throughout the country in working through many challenging situations associated with base closure and realignment actions. Rear Admiral Drennon has been equally recognized and appreciated by all who have come to know him.

A man of Rear Admiral Drennon's talent and integrity is rare indeed, and while his honorable service will be genuinely missed, it gives me great pleasure today to recognize him before my colleagues and to wish him, his

wife, Cheryl, and his family every success as he brings to a close a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Navy.

TEXAS ACTS ON FLAG DESECRATION

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, Texas Secretary of State, the Honorable Antonio O. Garza, Jr., has forwarded to me a copy of a resolution passed by the Texas Legislature on March 9, 1995 and signed by Governor George Bush. The resolution petitions the U.S. Congress to propose to the States an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which protects the American flag from willful desecration. I supported the passage of such an amendment in 1990 when the Senate debated the issue and have cosponsored the most recent proposal to ban the desecration of our flag. Secretary Garza has requested that I place in the RECORD the text of the resolution adopted by the Texas Legislature. Because of the importance that I place on this issue, I am requesting unanimous consent that the text of the resolution and the text of a letter from Secretary of State Garza be printed in the RECORD in order that my colleagues have an opportunity to read for themselves this important expression of the collective will of the people of my State.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE STATE OF TEXAS,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
Austin, TX, April 13, 1995.

Hon. PHIL GRAMM,
U.S. Senator, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR GRAMM: Please find enclosed an official copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution 24, as passed by the 74th Legislature, Regular Session, 1995, of the State of Texas.

The 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby petitions the Congress of the United States of America to propose to the states an amendment to the United States Constitution, protecting the American flag and 50 state flags from willful desecration and exempting such desecration from constitutional construction as a First Amendment right.

It is also requested that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

Sincerely,

ANTONIO O. GARZA, Jr.,
Secretary of State.

Enclosure.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, the United States flag belongs to all Americans and ought not be desecrated by any one individual, even under principles of free expression, any more than we would allow desecration of the Declaration of Independence, Statue of Liberty, Lincoln Memorial, Yellowstone National Park, or any other common inheritance which the people of this land hold dear; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court, in contravention of this postulate, has by a narrow decision held to be a First Amendment freedom the license to destroy

in protest this cherished symbol of our national heritage; and

Whereas, whatever legal arguments may be offered to support this contention, the incineration or other mutilation of the flag of the United States of America is repugnant to all those who have saluted it, paraded beneath it on the Fourth of July, been saluted by its half-mast configuration, or raised it inspirationally in remote corners of the globe where they have defended the ideals of which it is representative; and

Whereas, the members of the Legislature of the State of Texas, while respectful of dissenting political views, themselves dissent forcefully from the court decision, echoing the beliefs of all patriotic Americans that this flag is OUR flag and not a private property subject to a private prerogative to maim or despoil in the passion of individual protest; and

Whereas, as stated by Chief Justice William Rehnquist, writing for three of the four justices who comprised the minority in the case, "Surely one of the high purposes of a democratic society is to legislate against conduct that is regarded as evil and profoundly offensive to the majority of people—whether it be murder, embezzlement, pollution, or flag burning"; and

Whereas, this legislature concurs with the court minority that the Stars and Stripes is deserving of a unique sanctity, free to wave in perpetuity over the spacious skies where our bald eagles fly, the fruited plain above which our mountain majesties soar, and the venerable heights to which our melting pot of people and their posterity aspire; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby petition the Congress of the United States of America to propose to the states an amendment to the United States Constitution, protecting the American flag and 50 state flags from willful desecration and exempting such desecration from constitutional construction as a First Amendment right; and, be it further

Resolved, That official copies of this resolution be prepared and forwarded by the Texas secretary of state to the speaker of the house of representatives and president of the senate of the United States Congress and to all members of the Texas delegation to that congress, with the request that it be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States; and, be it further

Resolved, That a copy of the resolution be prepared and forwarded also to President Bill Clinton, asking that he lend his support to the proposal and adoption of a flag-protection constitutional amendment; and, be it finally

Resolved, That official copies likewise be sent to the presiding officers of the legislatures of the several states, inviting them to join with Texas to secure this amendment and to restore this nation's banners to their rightful status of treasured reverence.

WELFARE REFORM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, there is broad consensus in this country that the current welfare system serves no one well—not the recipients, not their children, not the American taxpayer. I agree with that consensus. The current welfare system is broken and needs major repair. Why? Because it is failing both the people in need and the working people who are paying for it.

The current system has trapped all too many people into a lifetime of dependency rather than assisting them

on a temporary basis to get back on their feet and back into the labor force. Any meaningful welfare reform must be grounded on the premise that government assistance is a way "up and out"—not a "way of life."

The current welfare system has failed us all. It traps all too many, especially women, into a lifetime of dependency and poverty. Their children in all too many instances suffer irreparable harm and are likely to remain poor and disadvantaged for the remainder of their lives. If the past is a predictor, too many children of today's welfare recipients will end up on the rolls themselves or in trouble with the law.

We simply must break this cycle. Unless we move welfare recipients into meaningful educational and work situations, we are doomed to failure. The only system that can work to the benefit of all is one that encourages independence, discourages dependency and demands personal responsibility. All of those elements, it seems to me, are missing in the welfare program we have today. Let us make sure that those key elements are the underpinnings of the bill on which we will cast our votes. Let us make sure we do it right. And let us make sure we do it with great care and compassion.

Mr. President, it is my hope that Republicans and Democrats alike can work together to fashion a bipartisan welfare plan that will be both effective in moving recipients from welfare to work. Our welfare system should provide temporary help—an opportunity for people to help themselves. If we put aside partisan rhetoric and turn instead to the mission of protecting poor kids and helping adults who need a temporary helping hand, I think we will have the best opportunity we have had in many years to forge a reform package which is good for kids, good for their parents and good for the American taxpayer.

Before we begin the debate, I think it is important to dispel some of the myths surrounding welfare. My purpose in detailing the following facts is not to defend the current system, but to ground the debate in truth rather than fiction.

First, AFDC caseloads as a percentage of the general population have remained fairly static over the past 20 years, fluctuating between 4 and 5½ percent. The number of recipients has grown as the population has increased and, cyclically, when the economy has declined.

Second, benefit levels have substantially declined in inflation adjusted dollars over the past two decades. The median State benefit for a family of three, adjusted for inflation, fell by 47 percent between 1970 and 1994.

Third, AFDC does not come close to providing a poverty level income to recipients. The median State benefit for a family of three was only 38 percent of the poverty level in 1994. If food stamps are included, the median State benefit

only reaches 70 percent of the poverty level.

Fourth, the average size of the welfare family is 2.9 while the average size of the typical American family is 3.2.

As legislators, we must craft a welfare reform bill that helps rather than hinders hope and self-sufficiency, especially for poor mothers and their children. And I know we can achieve our goals if we join together in a collaborative effort to accomplish them.

Mr. President, since there is no Democratic or Republican welfare bill around which the Senate membership of either party has currently coalesced, I thought this would be an appropriate time to offer some suggestions.

IT MUST PROTECT CHILDREN

Protecting the vulnerable children of poor welfare mothers must be our highest priority, and I do not believe that can be accomplished without maintaining the entitlement status of benefits for children. Let me make it clear, I am not talking about entitlement status for the mother, only the child. Despite the best intentions of State governments, despite their basic goodwill, despite their legislative skills, there is no way the Federal Government can guarantee that the welfare child will be protected by each and every State under a with a no-strings-attached block grant approach to reform. And protecting poor children is something I believe the Federal Government must do. It is and ought to be a national priority. I am not simply not willing to take the gamble that each and every State government will successfully meet this most fundamental responsibility.

I am all for giving State governments as much flexibility as possible in designing effective State reform plans that fit local needs. I am all for encouraging States to tap every creative resource available in forging new approaches to reform. But let us be honest with one another, welfare varies widely from State to State. Benefit levels vary widely. Effectiveness varies widely. Successful job training and placement efforts vary widely. And I am simply not willing to sacrifice any child, in any State, to a potentially unsuccessful outcome. These kids are our future. We must protect their interests.

IT MUST BE WORK-ORIENTED AND TRANSITIONAL

After the protection of children, the fundamental focus of the bill must be to move recipients from welfare, to work, to economic self-sufficiency as quickly as possible. While the original goal of AFDC in 1935 was to pay widows to stay at home and raise their children, the world and workforce have changed a great deal over the intervening decades. Increasingly, we expect both parents to work to support their children. We also expect both parents to share the responsibility of rearing their children. No one denies the difficulties involved in this dual role for parents. But it is done every day by millions upon millions of struggling